



DIVISION OF CHEMICAL EDUCATION  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

April 17, 1969

Dr. Marshall Nirenberg  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Doctor Nirenberg:

I will state the purpose of this letter immediately. I would like to ask you to devote a bit of your valuable time to serve as a member of the Steering Committee for an International Symposium on Education in Chemistry which will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the American Chemical Society's Division of Chemical Education.

The objective of the Symposium is to bring together outstanding research chemists from industry, government and academia to consider chemical education at the college and university level. Chemists from around the world will be asked to participate. Research chemists are not always as intimately involved in the educational process as those who are more "teaching" oriented, yet it is essential that the research oriented chemist contribute his thinking to the process of educating students in chemistry.

Support for this Symposium, to be held at Snowmass-at-Aspen, Colorado during the summer of 1970, has been guaranteed by the Division of Chemical Education. The ACS Board of Directors, at its December 8, 1968 meeting, voted to ".... endorse the concept of a 50th Anniversary Symposium on Education in Chemistry sponsored by the Division of Chemical Education and offer its assistance to the Division in the preliminary planning of the Symposium." Robert L. Silber, Director of Membership Activities of ACS together with the Division's Executive Committee will assist the Steering Committee in every way possible.

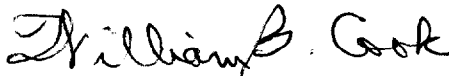
The 1970 Symposium will be the first of a continuing biennial series of symposia on education in chemistry. All symposia speakers, panel members and colloquia leaders will be selected on the basis of the quality of their work. The Division will continue to sponsor technical programs at ACS national meetings as has been practiced in the past.

The "Westheimer Report" of 1965 called attention to the dissatisfaction of chemists with support of research in chemistry. Scant attention was devoted in the report to the dissatisfaction of chemists with the scope and quality of chemistry instruction. In one part of the document, the authors admit that the report failed to examine in sufficient detail the ".... balance in teaching and research" and suggest that, ".... chemistry could well profit from a further study of educational needs and opportunities, and perhaps from long-range research in education." Research in chemical education has a better chance for success if chemists such as yourself participate.

The steering committee will be responsible for developing the symposium program. The committee probably will convene only two or three times for one day. We hope to hold the first meeting during May, 1969. Your advice and counsel may be sought on other occasions via phone or letter.

Please give serious thought to this proposal. Bob Silber will call you soon to discuss personally your anticipated participation as a steering committee member. All of your expenses will be covered.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William B. Cook".

William B. Cook, Chairman  
Division of Chemical Education

WBC:klm